

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Akira MATSUMOTO, Masashi FUKUYAMA

Filed: Concurrently herewith

For: FIBER ARRAY, METHOD FOR FABRICATING THE SAME AND
OPTICAL DEVICE USING THE FIBER ARRAY

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, addressed to the Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on October 12, 2001 under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number EV 002151290 US.

Gina M. Husak

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

At page 6, line 29--page 7, line 5, please rewrite as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) are diagrams illustrating an embodiment of the present invention.

Figs. 2(a) and 2(b) are diagrams illustrating another embodiment of the present invention.

Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) are diagrams illustrating a conventional fiber array.

Figs. 4(a)-(c) are partial magnifications of the circular portion in Fig. 3.

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 5, 6, 7 and 9 as follows:

5. (Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein the end face of the fiber is flush with the end face of the fiber array or protrudes therefrom.
6. (Amended) The fiber array according to claim 3, wherein the end face of the peripheral adhesive B is recessed at most 10 μm from the end face of the fiber array.
7. (Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral adhesive B has a Young's modulus of at least 0.03GPa.
9. (Amended) An optical device that is connected/fixed to a fiber array according to claim 1.

REMARKS

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment in which the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. Attached hereto as page 4, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(1)(iii) is a marked-up copy of the original specification paragraphs showing the changes made thereto.

Claims 1-9 are pending herein. Applicants have amended claims 5-7 and 9 to eliminate multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination. Attached hereto as page 5, pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(ii), is a marked-up copy of the amended claims.

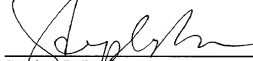
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

October 12, 2001

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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At page 6, line 29—page 7, line 5, the following changes were made:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a diagram Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) are diagrams illustrating an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a diagram Figs. 2(a) and 2(b) are diagrams illustrating another embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a diagram Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) are diagrams illustrating a conventional fiber array.

Fig. 4 is a Figs. 4(a)-(c) are partial magnifications of the circular portion in Fig. 3.

5. (Amended) The fiber array according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the end face of the fiber is flush with the end face of the fiber array or protrudes therefrom.
6. (Amended) The fiber array according to ~~any one of claims 3 or 4~~claim 3, wherein the end face of the peripheral adhesive B is recessed at most 10 μm from the end face of the fiber array.
7. (Amended) The fiber array according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the peripheral adhesive B has a Young's modulus of at least 0.03GPa.
9. (Amended) An optical device that is connected/fixed to a fiber array according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4~~claim 1.